

early roots of Western Civilization trace back to Greece, from where it grew out across the European continent and later across the Atlantic Ocean to the Western Hemisphere.

Unfortunately, modern shortcuts such as the English language and 21st century culture are undermining the Greek language and traditions. As the incubators of so many wonders, the Greek language and the Greek culture deserve to be preserved and celebrated. This is essential for the benefit of the current generation and the enrichment of future generations.

I have had the honor of meeting an individual dedicated to preserving the Hellenic spirit, Captain Panayotis Tsakos. He undertook this mission of love by creating the Maria Tsakos Foundation, which is devoted to honoring the various aspects of ancient, modern, and contemporary Greek culture. The Foundation provides multifaceted activities that teach the Greek language, dances, and literature. So far, more than 3,000 students have learned the language and culture. In addition, the Foundation provides scholarships for study in Greece and supports charities that uphold Greek traditions.

I appreciate this opportunity to share this information with my colleagues, and to commend Captain Tsakos for his dedication to preserving the richness of the Hellenic world.

RECOGNIZING THE JAVITS-WAGNER-O'DAY PROGRAM

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a small Federal program that is often overlooked as a way to provide employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The Javits-Wagner-O'Day program, often referred to as JWOD, provides more than 36,000 Americans, who are blind or who have other disabilities, with the job skills and training necessary to earn good wages and benefits as well as greater independence and quality of life. The JWOD program empowers people with disabilities who traditionally face an unemployment rate of 70 percent and rely heavily on social support programs, such as welfare and SSI.

By employing people with disabilities, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day program is able to increase independence and self esteem by helping these individuals enjoy full participation in their community and market their JWOD skills into other public/private sector jobs.

Everyday, the National Industries for the Blind and NISH are creating new employment opportunities for people with disabilities, along with local nonprofit organizations in my home district of central Illinois. Demonstrating an excellent federal-private sector partnership, NISH National Industries for the Blind and local nonprofits, such as the Community Workshop & Training Center, Inc., in my state, enhance opportunities for economic and personal independence of people with disabilities by creating, sustaining, and improving employment.

This year, the Community Workshop & Training Center Inc. will be celebrating 45 years of proudly providing employment opportunities and residential support for individuals

with disabilities, enriching their quality of life, promoting social change and optimizing their potential for independence. They have been proudly participating in the JWOD program since 1991 by providing the janitorial services to the U.S. Federal Courthouse, including my office in Peoria, Illinois. In that time, 49 individuals have been involved, and David Rinaldi, William Wolf, Tom Sledge, Mary Kuebler and Tom Sieks are currently benefiting from the program.

On behalf of people with disabilities, I rise to salute the important contributions of JWOD and Community Workshop & Training Center, Inc. to central Illinois and its citizens. I hereby commend all persons who are committed to enhancing employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

SERVICES FOR ENDING LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to join my colleague Representative DEBORAH PRYCE in introducing the Services for Ending Long-Term Homelessness Act (SELHA). This legislation establishes a grant program that would be administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for services related to housing for people who have experienced chronic homelessness and who also have disabling health conditions such as mental illness.

The Department of Health and Human Services currently operates grant programs for homeless individuals but none of them are specifically focused on services such as mental health services, substance abuse treatment, health education, money management, parental skills training, and general health care, coordinated with permanent supportive housing.

Chronically homeless individuals need more than housing. In order to truly help, the federal government needs to provide grants that will enable communities to coordinate and deliver health care-related services to these individuals. Without these services, it will continue to be very hard to end the root causes of chronic homelessness.

SELHA specifically: Establishes a grant program for services in supportive housing within the Department of Health and Human Services (RRS) and administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA);

Defines "chronically homeless" as an individual or family who is currently homeless, has been homeless continuously for at least one year or has been homeless on at least four separate occasions in the last three years, and has a head of household with a disabling condition.

Make states, cities, public, or nonprofit entities eligible to apply for the grants.

Gives priority to applicants that target funds to individuals or families that are homeless for longer than one year, frequently use the ER, or interact regularly with law enforcement.

Funds services including mental health services, substance abuse treatment, referrals for primary health care and dental services,

health education, money management, and parental skills training.

Requires initial grant awardees to provide \$1 for every \$3 of federal money.

Requires renewal grant awardees to provide \$1 for every \$1 of federal money.

Permits 20 percent of the grant awardees' matching funds to come from other federal grants such as the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant. This provision will encourage collaboration with existing programs and access for homeless people to existing mainstream health and human services systems, while assisting the grant awardees in achieving their match.

Establishes initial grant terms of 3–5 years and renewal grant terms of up to 5 years. (To encourage long-term program success and stability for permanent supportive housing projects and formerly homeless tenants, renewal grant awardees only compete against each other and have priority status for additional funding.)

Chronic homelessness is a dreadful but solvable problem. In my District, the most recent one-day survey (February 27, 2004) in Santa Clara County identified over 7,000 homeless individuals, with over 1,000 defined as chronic. In San Mateo County, over 1,730 individuals are homeless, with approximately 650 defined as chronic.

Chronic homelessness is very costly to emergency rooms, psychiatric hospitals, VA hospitals and the criminal justice system. This legislation will provide more resources to reduce these costly expenditures, while simultaneously permitting individuals with complex health needs to be housed and begin their journey to a productive life.

I urge all my colleagues in the House to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SPECIALIST KEITH "MATT" MAUPIN

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, Saturday, April 9, 2005 marks a tragic one-year anniversary for Army Specialist Keith "Matt" Maupin and America. Spc. Maupin, better known as Matt to his friends, went missing one year ago and is the only American soldier to be unaccounted for. His courage and valor are unquestioned and our prayers are with his family and friends as they wait daily for word on his whereabouts. The community of Batavia, OH has not forgotten their brave soldier, but we must all remember Matt and pray for his safe return.

Our brave men and women fighting on the front lines in Afghanistan, Iraq and throughout the world sacrifice so much. Beyond their own personal safety, they also sacrifice seeing their wives, husbands, parents and friends. They miss their children's first steps, soccer games and special moments. There is no way to repay the debt we owe them. But we can do the next best thing and honor them through actions. Tell them and their families how grateful we are for their sacrifice and most importantly, bring all of our troops home.

On Saturday, April 9, 2005 let's take a moment to remember Spc. Maupin and all of our American heroes.